



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

RIYADH • SAUDI ARABIA



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release
2013

May 28, 2013

Media Note

United States and Saudi Arabia Sign Open Skies Air Transport Agreement

Today in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, U.S. Ambassador James B. Smith and Saudi Arabia's Deputy Director of the General Authority of Civil Aviation, Dr. Faisal bin Hamad Al-Sugair, signed an Open Skies air transport agreement.

The United States-Saudi Arabia Open Skies agreement will, following a transition period, permit unrestricted air service by the airlines of both countries between and beyond the other's territory, eliminating restrictions on how often the carriers fly, the kind of aircraft they use and the prices they charge. This agreement will allow for the strengthening and expansion of our strong trade and tourism links with Saudi Arabia, benefitting U.S. and Saudi Arabian businesses and travelers by expanding opportunities for air services and encouraging vigorous price competition by airlines, while preserving our commitments to aviation safety and security. It has been applied on the basis of comity and reciprocity since it was initialed on April 18, 2011.

The United States has over 100 Open Skies agreements with partners around the world and at all levels of development.

For more information about Open Skies, please visit: <http://www.state.gov/e/eb/tra/ata/index.htm>

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